



Special Section
The Afterlife

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Tortures and Torments of the Christian Martyrs

Sometimes they were simply hung up by one foot, while at others smoke from damp and evil-smelling fuel, such as the dung of animals, was added to increase the agony, and to crown all, a dozen executioners thrashing the victim at the same time with rods. In other instances they were suspended by one foot, the leg being bent at the knee and an iron band fixed round that joint, and then an iron weight fastened to the other foot in such a way that the unhappy victims were miserably strained asunder. Thus in the *Acts* of St. Samona we find it thus written: "But the Magistrate at once orders Samona to have one leg bent at the knee and an iron band put around the joint. This done, he hangs him head down by the foot of the bent leg, at the same time dragging the other downwards by means of an iron weight."

Of Martyrs which suffered by the first of these modes of torment, we read amongst others the names of those most noble soldiers of Christ mentioned a little above, St. Gregory of Armenia and St. Samona.

As to the second mode, whereby the victims were hung up by both feet, sundry *Acts* of the Saints speak of this,—for example, those of St. Venantius, of the holy Virgins Euphemia and her sisters, of Bishop Acepsima and his companions. Also the Cappadocian Martyrs, a great host commemorated in the *Roman Martyrology*, under May 23, where it is thus written: "In Cappadocia, commemoration of the Blessed Martyrs which in the persecution of Maximianus were slain and their limbs broken; likewise of those which at the same date in Mesopotamia were hung aloft by the feet



A. Martyr suspended by both feet, and a great stone fastened to his feet.
B. Sometimes the Blessed Martyrs, after being smeared with honey, were exposed to the rays of the sun, to be tortured by the stings of flies.
C. Martyr suspended by one foot; one leg is bent at the knee, which being weighted with a heavy mass of iron.















**ROSARY
OF THE
BLESSED
VIRGIN**



JOYFUL

Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, Presentation, Finding in the Temple.

(Mondays and Thursdays; also First Sunday of Advent to First Sunday of Lent.)

SORROWFUL

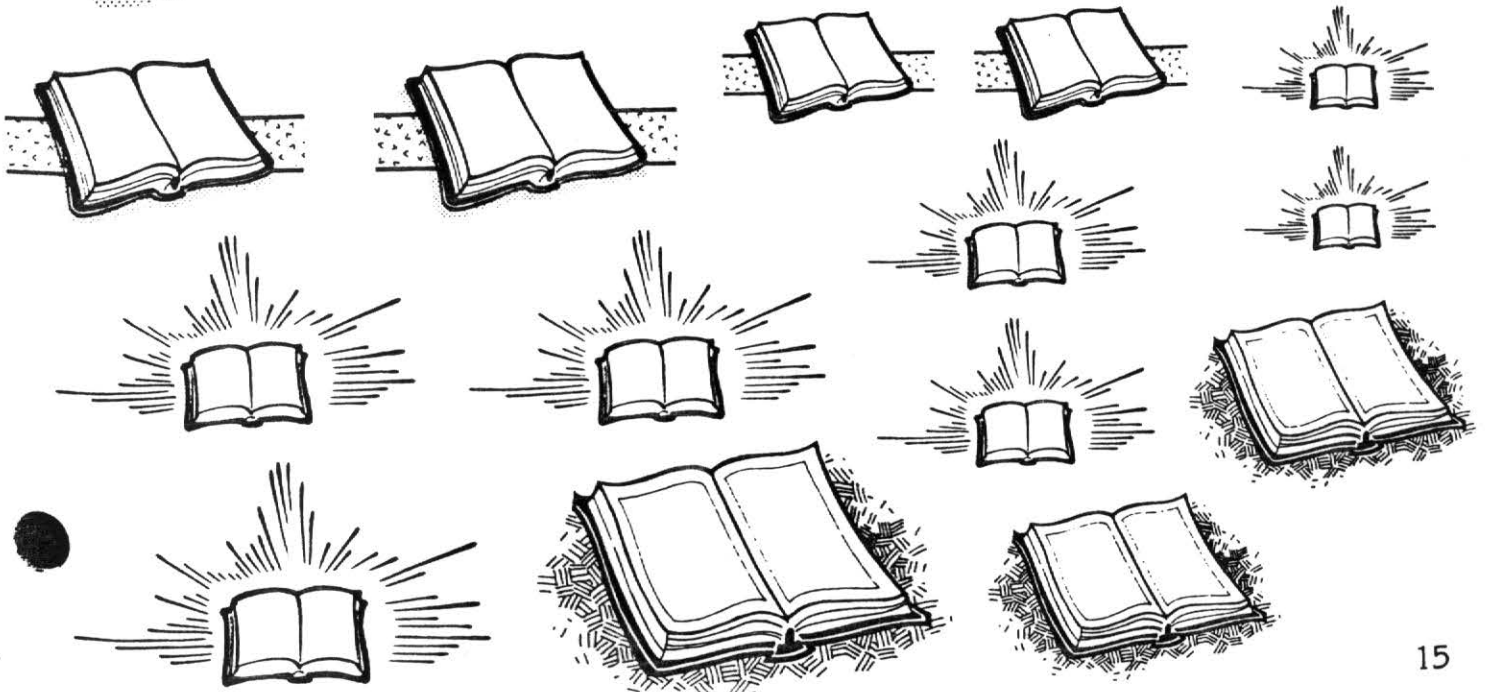
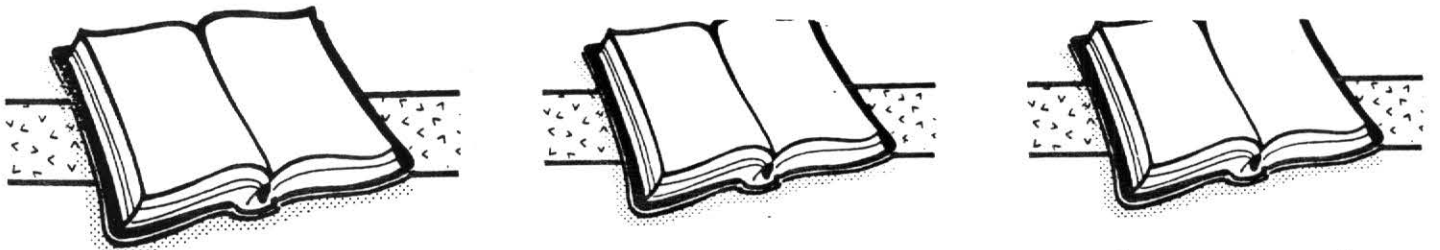
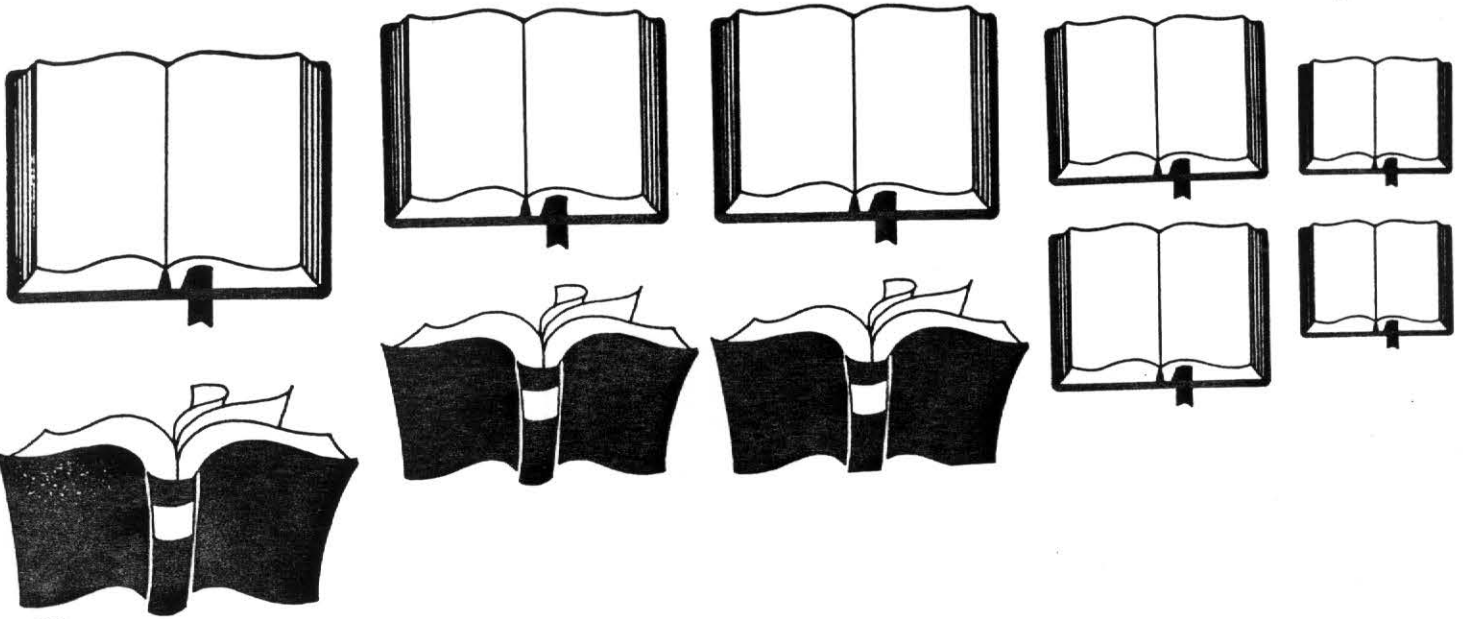
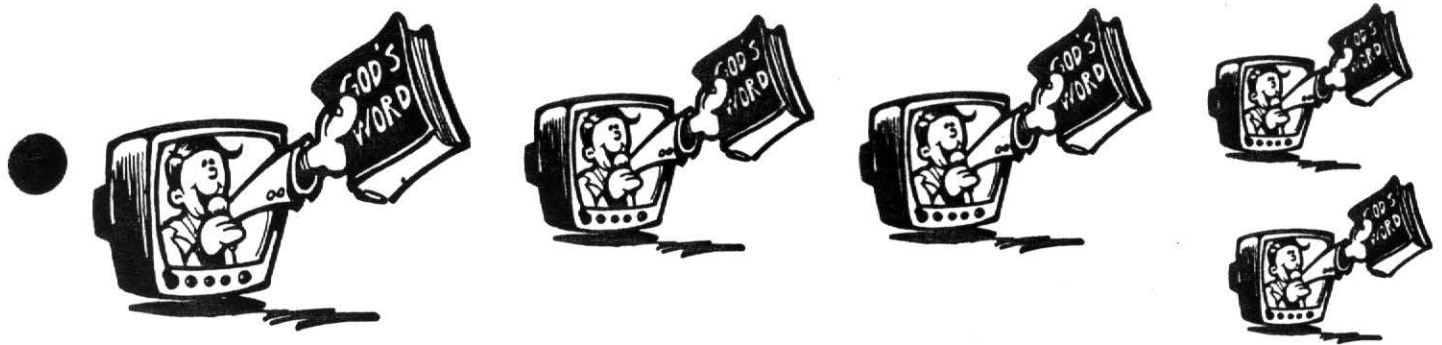
Agony in the Garden, Scourging at Pillar, Crowning with Thorns, Carrying the Cross

LA SALLE

JAMES P. O'REILLY, M. S.



Mary's Apparition, History, Sequels





Special Section on:
Solitary Practice



